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Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mamadou Moustapha **Loum** (Senegal)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 60/23 of 23 November 2005.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 5th, 6th, 12th and 22nd meetings, on 16 and 27 October and on 16 November 2006. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/61/SR.5, 6, 12 and 22).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/61/153);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/61/33).

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/61/304).

5. At the 5th meeting, on 16 October, the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization introduced the report of the Special Committee (see A/C.6/61/SR.5).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.6/61/L.6

6. At the 12th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice" (A/C.6/61/L.6).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/61/L.6 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the President of the International Court of Justice made a statement (see A/C.6/61/SR.12).

B. Draft resolution A/C.6/61/L.10 and Corr.1

9. At the 22nd meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Egypt introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" (A/C.6/61/L.10 and Corr.1).

10. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement regarding the financial implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.6/61/SR.22).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/61/L.10 and Corr.1 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Japan and Germany made statements in explanation of position (see A/C.6/61/SR.22).

III. Recommendations of the Sixth Committee

13. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice

The General Assembly,

Mindful that, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, all Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations[1] and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes,[2]

Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels,

Recalling that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

Noting that 2006 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the inaugural sitting of the International Court of Justice,

Noting with appreciation the special commemorative event held at The Hague in April 2006 to celebrate the anniversary,

1. *Solemnly commends* the International Court of Justice for the important role that it has played as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations over the past sixty years in adjudicating disputes among States, and recognizes the value of its work;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Court for the measures adopted to operate an increased workload with maximum efficiency;

3. *Stresses* the desirability of finding practical ways and means to strengthen the Court, taking into consideration, in particular, the needs resulting from its workload;

4. *Encourages* States to continue considering recourse to the Court by means available under its Statute, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the Court in accordance with its Statute;

5. *Calls upon* States to consider means of strengthening the Court's work, including by supporting the Secretary-General's Trust Fund to Assist States in the Settlement of Disputes through the International Court of Justice on a voluntary basis, in order to enable the Fund to carry on and to strengthen its support to the countries which submit their disputes to the Court;

6. *Stresses* the importance of promoting the work of the International Court of Justice, and urges that efforts be continued through available means to encourage public awareness in the teaching, study and wider dissemination of the activities of the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, in view of both its judiciary and advisory functions.

[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[2] Resolution 37/10, annex.

Draft resolution II
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3499 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, by which it established the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and its relevant resolutions adopted at subsequent sessions,

Recalling also its resolution 47/233 of 17 August 1993 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolution 47/62 of 11 December 1992 on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council,

Taking note of the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,[1]

Recalling the elements relevant to the work of the Special Committee contained in its resolution 47/120 B of 20 September 1993,

Recalling also its resolution 51/241 of 31 July 1997 on the strengthening of the United Nations system and its resolution 51/242 of 15 September 1997, entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace", by which it adopted the texts on coordination and the question of sanctions imposed by the United Nations, which are annexed to that resolution,

Concerned about the special economic problems confronting certain States arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures taken by the Security Council against other States, and taking into account the obligation of Members of the United Nations under Article 49 of the Charter of the United Nations to join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Council,

Recalling the right of third States confronted with special economic problems of that nature to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter,

Recalling also that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and reaffirming its authority and independence,

Noting the adoption of the revised working papers on the working methods of the Special Committee,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*,[2]

Taking note also of paragraphs 106 to 110, 176 and 177 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 47* (A/60/47).

[2] A/61/153.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

Mindful of the decision of the Special Committee, in which it expressed its readiness to engage, as appropriate, in the implementation of any decisions that may be taken at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto,[4]

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 50/51 of 11 December 1995, 51/208 of 17 December 1996, 52/162 of 15 December 1997, 53/107 of 8 December 1998, 54/107 of 9 December 1999, 55/157 of 12 December 2000, 56/87 of 12 December 2001, 57/25 of 19 November 2002, 58/80 of 9 December 2003 and 59/45 of 2 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 60/23 of 23 November 2005,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on the work of its session held in 2006,[5]

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Special Committee to encourage States to focus on the need to prevent and to settle peacefully their disputes which are likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization;[5]

2. *Decides* that the Special Committee shall hold its next session from 7 to 14 and 16 February 2007;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption, as a decision, of the working methods of the Special Committee, contained in paragraph 72 of its 2006 report;[5]

4. *Requests* the Special Committee, at its session in 2007, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 50/52 of 11 December 1995:

(a) To continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations, and, in this context, to consider other proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security already submitted or which may be submitted to the Special Committee at its session in 2007;

(b) To continue to consider, on a priority basis and in an appropriate substantive manner and framework, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter based on all of the related reports of the Secretary-General[6] and the proposals submitted on the question;

(c) To keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States;

(d) To consider, as appropriate, any proposal referred to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the decisions of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the Assembly in September 2005 that concern the Charter and any amendments thereto;

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/60/33), para. 77.

[5] Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/61/33).

[6] A/48/573-S/26705, A/49/356, A/50/60-S/1995/1, A/50/361, A/50/423, A/51/317, A/52/308, A/53/312, A/54/383 and Add.1, A/55/295 and Add.1, A/56/303, A/57/165 and Add.1, A/58/346, A/59/334 and A/60/320.

(e) To continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency with a view to identifying widely acceptable measures for future implementation;

5. *Invites* the Special Committee at its session in 2007 to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work with a view to contributing to the revitalization of the work of the United Nations;

6. *Notes* the readiness of the Special Committee to provide, within its mandate, such assistance as may be sought at the request of other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in relation to any issues before them;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

8. *Recognizes* the important role of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, in adjudicating disputes among States and the value of its work, as well as the importance of having recourse to the Court in the peaceful settlement of disputes, and requests the Secretary-General to distribute, in due course, the advisory opinions requested by the principal organs of the United Nations as official documents of the United Nations;

9. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the progress made in the preparation of studies of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, including the increased use of the internship programme of the United Nations and the wider cooperation with academic institutions for this purpose, as well as the progress made towards updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts towards updating the two publications;

11. *Reiterates* the responsibility of the Secretary-General for the quality of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and, in particular, with regard to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, requests the Secretary-General to continue to follow the modalities outlined in paragraphs 102 to 106 of his report of 18 September 1952;[7]

12. *Recognizes* the desirability of making available electronically the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* in all their respective language versions;

13. *Reiterates its call* for voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the updating of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, as well as the trust fund for the elimination of the backlog in the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, and the sponsoring, on a voluntary basis, and at no cost to the United Nations, of associate experts to assist in the updating of the two publications;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on both the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Special Committee for its consideration the information referred to in paragraph 12 of his report on implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to

[7] A/2170.

assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions,[8] on modalities, technical procedures and guidelines on coordination of technical assistance available to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions, as well as a possible methodology for assessing the adverse consequences actually incurred by third States, in the report mentioned in paragraph 16 below;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, under the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization";

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization".

[8] A/61/304.